**Drugs addiction among youth**

1866. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the youth become addicted to drugs in 18 to 20 years of age;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard to find out the number of youth of this age group who are addicted to drugs,

(c) whether this menace has equal impact in cities, towns and villages; and

(d) whether it is affected by the economic standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime has conducted a National Survey on Extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug Abuse which indicates that the prevalence of drug use in sample size of 21,803 within the age group of 12-30 years was as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Cannabis | 361 |
| Opiates | 101 |

(c)As per the Survey, prevalence of drug abuse is uneven in the country and though its impact is largely seen in the urban areas, it has proliferated to the suburbs and rural areas.

(d) There is no evidence to suggest that it is affected by the economic standards.

**Scholarship to SC/ST students of Kerala**

1867. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by Government towards the scholarship admissible to the SC/ST students of Kerala during the current year;